AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~modulating~~ downregulating the ~~growth~~ proliferation of a neoplastic cell, which neoplastic cell has become transformed due to upregulation of an oncogene, comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to ~~modulate~~ downregulate the functional activity of sphingosine kinase wherein down-regulation of the functional activity of said sphingosine kinase down-regulates said growth and up-regulation of the functional activity of said sphingosine kinase up-regulates said cell growth.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~modulating~~ downregulating the ~~growth~~ proliferation of a neoplastic cell, which neoplastic cell has become transformed due to upregulation of an oncogene, comprising contacting said cell with an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to ~~modulate~~ downregulate the level of functional activity of sphingosine kinase wherein down-regulation of the functional activity of said sphingosine kinase to an oncogenic ineffective level down-regulates said growth and up-regulation of the functional activity of said sphingosine kinase to an oncogenic effective level up-regulates said cell growth.

3-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 [[7]], wherein said neoplastic cell is a malignant cell.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein said malignant cell is a cell from the colon, stomach, lung, brain, bone, esophagus, pancreas, breast, ovary or uterus.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said malignant cell is a breast cell.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said malignant cell has become transfected due to up-regulation of an oncogene.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein said oncogene is Ras.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said malignant cell has become transformed by sphingosine kinase overexpression oncogenic activity.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 1, 2 and 8-13 [[1-4 or 6-13]], wherein said agent is N,N-dimethylsphingosine.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 1, 2 and 8-13 [[1-4 or 6-13]], wherein said agent is DL-threo-dihydrosphingosine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition characterized by ~~aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate cell growth~~ neoplastic cell proliferation in a mammal, which neoplastic cell has become transformed due to upregulation of an oncogene comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to ~~modulate~~ downregulate the functional activity of sphingosine kinase.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition characterized ~~aberrant, unwanted or otherwise inappropriate cell growth~~ neoplastic cell proliferation in a mammal, which neoplastic cell has become transformed due to upregulation of an oncogene comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an agent for a time and under conditions sufficient to ~~modulate~~ downregulate the level of functional activity of sphingosine kinase wherein down-regulation of the functional activity of said sphingosine kinase to an oncogenic ineffective level down-regulates said growth and up-regulation of the functional activity of said sphingosine kinase to an oncogenic effective level up-regulates said cell growth.

18-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 17 [[22]], wherein said neoplastic cell is a malignant cell.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said malignant cell forms a solid tumor of the colon, stomach, lung, brain, bone, breast, esophagus or pancreas.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein said malignant cell forms a solid tumor of the breast.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein said malignant cell has become transformed due to oncogene up-regulation.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, wherein said oncogene is Ras.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein said malignant cell has become transformed by sphingosine kinase over expression oncogenic activity.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 16, 17 and 23-28 [[16-19 or 21-28]], wherein said agent is N,N-dimethylsphingosine.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 16, 17 and 23-28 [[16-19 or 21-28]], wherein said agent is DL-threo-dihydrosphingosine.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims [[16-28]] 16, 17 and 23-30, wherein said mammal is a human.

32-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein said mammal is a human.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein said mammal is a human.